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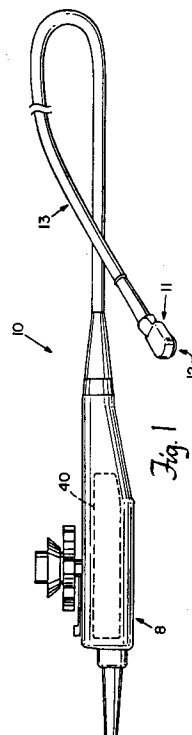
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DE FR GB NL(88) Date of deferred publication of the search report:
30.06.93 Bulletin 93/26(71) Applicant: **Hewlett-Packard Company**
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W-8023 Pullach bei München (DE)(54) **Transducer positioning system.**

(57) An endoscopic ultrasound probe (10) for use with an ultrasound imaging system in trans-esophageal echo cardiography comprises a motorized positioning system (40) which provides for automated control of an ultrasound transducer array (12). The positioning system (40) employs an electric motor (42) for rotating the array which is positioned in the distal end of the probe (10). A switch mechanism (60) may be manipulated to provide power to actuate the motor (42). The motor (42) is mechanically coupled to the array (12) providing the capability to rotate the array to any angular position to provide a plurality of scan planes for obtaining a plurality of corresponding two-dimensional cross-sectional images. Further, the positioning system (40) may comprise a position feedback mechanism (58) coupled to the array (12) for providing remote imaging system electronics (64) with array position indications corresponding to each of a plurality of corresponding two-dimensional cross-sectional images. Also, the positioning system (40) may be electronically controlled by a controller (62) in the imaging system for providing three-dimensional images of a subject.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 91 11 4682

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
X	DE-A-4 001 182 (OLYMPUS OPTICAL CO. LTD.)	1,2,7	A61B8/00
Y	* column 2, line 27 - line 46 *	6	A61B8/12
A	* column 3, line 31 - column 7, line 35; figures 1-17 *	3,4,8	

Y	US-A-4 735 211 (W.TAKASUGI)	6	
	* column 2, line 52 - column 3, line 9; figure 1 *		

A	US-A-4 756 313 (R.TERWILLIGER)	1,2,6,7,9	
	* column 3, line 7 - column 4, line 49 *		
	* column 5, line 9 - line 19; figures 1-3 *		

A	EP-A-0 039 045 (OLYMPUS OPTICAL CO. LTD.)	1,2,7	
	* page 2, line 34 - page 8, line 1; figures 1-4 *		

			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			A61B G10K
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 08 APRIL 1993	Examiner WEIHS J.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone		T : theory or principle underlying the invention	
Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category		E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date	
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P : intermediate document	 & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	